

March Section Meeting: Resource Constraints on Alternative Energy Development

Public support is growing for the development of energy generation from renewable sources. An aspect of renewables that is possibly unknown by many, however, is the hardware needs for these technologies.

The infrastructure requires mined materials, including imported strategic and critical minerals. Silica, copper, gallium, indium, selenium, cadmium and tellurium are required for the dominant photovoltaic technologies. Silver and aluminum are necessary for "concentrating solar power" technology. Zinc, vanadium, platinum group metals, and rare earth elements are key components of power storage, hybrid vehicle, and fuel cell applications. All these materials must be mined.

At present, the United States is woefully dependent upon import sources for most of these materials and demand is already squeezing the prices. Domestic sources must be found and developed if energy independence is to be achieved using alternative sources.

(continued on page 2)

March Section Meeting

Topic: Resource Constraints on
Alternative Energy Development

Speaker: Jim Burnell,
Colorado Geological Survey

Date: TUESDAY, MARCH 24th
*** PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE ****

Time: 6:00 Social Time
6:45 Dinner
7:45 Presentation

Location: PPA Event Center
2105 Decatur St., Denver

Cost: Members: \$20
(w/RSVP)* Non-Members: \$25
Students & Unemployed: \$10

Please RSVP by Friday, March 20th (early RSVPs are greatly appreciated!) indicating your name, phone number, and number of attendees. Please RSVP to Martin Vorum by phone at 303-384-7414 or email at rockyaiche@yahoo.com.

*Add \$5 for attending meeting without RSVP

Jim Burnell is the Minerals Geologist with the Colorado Geological Survey, responsible for metals, uranium, and industrial minerals. Jim is a Pennsylvania native who has been in Colorado for seventeen years. A Vietnam veteran, Jim received a bachelor's degree in geology from Franklin and Marshall College, a M. S. from the University of Minnesota – Duluth, and a Ph. D. from Brown University. He has been involved in teaching (Auburn University), research (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), and working in the fields of minerals, hazardous waste, and general geologic and management consulting for a Native American Tribal organization in the private sector and with the Colorado Geologic Survey since 1997.

NEW MEXICO CORNER

If you'd like to volunteer to speak at a future meeting or if you have any meeting/activity ideas, please let me know!

Patrick Burton, New Mexico Liaison
pburton@nmu.edu

Just for Fun

Here is the Washington Post's Mensa Invitational, which once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding or subtracting or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are the winners:

1. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. Ignoranus: A person who's both uneducated and... er... , mean.
3. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
4. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
5. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
6. Giraffiti (n.): Vandalism, spray-painted very, very high.
7. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
8. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's, like, a serious bummer.
9. Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
10. Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter as they come at you rapidly.
11. Arachnoleptic Fit (n): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

AIChE Meetings

2009

Apr 26-30 2009 Spring Nat'l
Tampa, FL

June 12-14 2009 Leadership
Development
Conference
Augusta, GMA

Sept 13-19 2009 Ammonia
Conference
Calgary, Alberta

Nov 8-13 Annual Meeting
Nashville, TN

2010

Mar 21-25 2010 Spring Nat'l
Tampa, FL
San Antonio, TX

May 2-5 SBE's 2nd Annual
Conference on Stem
Cell Engineering
Boston, MA

Oct 17-22 Annual Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT

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Rocky Mountain AIChE News is published eight times a year by the Rocky Mountain section of AIChE. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of AIChE nor the officers of this section.

The objectives of AIChE are to advance chemical engineering in theory and practice, to maintain a high professional standard among its members, and to serve society, particularly where chemical, engineering can contribute to the public interest.

Rocky Mountain AIChE News Publication Schedule

April 2009 issue

Articles due Wednesday, April 8th

Publish on Friday, April 10th

Meeting on Tuesday, April 21st

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Rocky Mountain District of AIChE generally meets the third Tuesday of every month, September through November and January through May.

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